



A New Plan for Park Development

1151 Esplanade, aka St. Aloysius School

New Orleans, Louisiana

- MyNOLAPark has been at the forefront of a public discussion about desired uses and has explored partnerships for development of this space since 2011
- A coordinated community survey of over 500 potential park users in October 2011 found desired uses were shaded seating and gathering areas with innovative seating, playground equipment, adult swings and walkways for youth biking or skating. Least requested was active recreation space. The most contentious issue regarded keeping the lot fenced off from after-hours use
- 1151 Esplanade Park is envisioned as a dog run with a playground, community garden and passive recreation space for the community
- Design elements will integrate Tremé history, public art and innovative storm water management techniques and organic barriers
- This project now ties in to an existing GoFloodMe Tremé community storm water management program and an innovative partnership with Recirculating Farms Coalition which can provide a fully staffed community garden, community gathering space, programming and partial maintenance for the site. *Through community-driven partnership building, the goal is a new model greenspace fully funded, developed and maintained with outside grants and donations.*

Brief Timeline of this Site:

- **July 2011:** Site proposed for 50 of 100 units of the Iberville HANO project
- **August 2011:** Armstrong Park and Tremé Center closed, neighbors and residents galvanize around the idea of making this city-owned property a public green space and begin community interest meetings
- **March 2012:** City Council approves the site rezoning from B-1A Commercial use to P-park space
- **Summer 2012:** My NOLA Park partners with 501.c.3 Trust For Public Land and unsuccessfully pursues a cooperative endeavor agreement with the City of New Orleans for development of a park
- **Spring 2013:** My NOLA Park and 501.c.3 Recirculating Farms Coalition unsuccessfully pursue a cooperative endeavor agreement with the City of New Orleans for development of a park
- **January 2014:** City of New Orleans/NORD approve plan identifying the site as a dog run
- **Spring 2015:** Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance has 1151 Esplanade reverting to HMC-2. Though this zoning allows for park space, the concern among park supporters is that this lot will once again be available for sale to a commercial developer.
- **Summer 2015:** Meeting with Vic Richard confirms site as dog run for District C. Requests to Mayor for final commitment per First Deputy Mayor/Chief Administrative Officer Andy Kopplin go unanswered.
- **Fall 2016:** When asked during the comment period of a NORD subcommittee meeting, Vic Richard states 1151 Esplanade is no longer under consideration for greenspace development

Committed and Interested Parties:

GoFloodMe – A new neighborhood coalition developing storm water management strategies on community streets

St Anna's Episcopal Church – neighbor and stakeholder with an arts and education program for community at-risk youth

Recirculating Farms Coalition – Experience with living barriers and obtaining grants for community farm projects, track record of award winning programs in New Orleans communities

Historic Fauborg Tremé Association – Has committed volunteer help for upkeep and fundraising

People United for Armstrong Park – Vocal in the development of more community green spaces in Tremé and a broad reach

Greater Tremé Consortium – a housing agency with strong community roots interested in community improvement and a lead in Tremé/7th Ward Cultural District activities

A New Vision

Two architectural design firms with partners who reside in the neighborhood, Perez and Futureproof, took survey data and worked pro-bono to create renderings which are a vision for a potential greenspace design. While these renderings have not gone through a complete design-charrette process with the community at large, they show how the space can be transformed into a community gathering place and storm water management project which can anchor the Esplanade Corridor.



Future Proof Design

- Playground
- Water feature
- Biking and walking trails
- Storm water bioswales and rainwater runoff capture basins
- Open gathering area and smaller isolated seating
- Native landscaping and trees



Perez Architects Design updated for Dog Park Use

- Community Garden (7)
- Dog Run – appx 0.21 acres, fenced and gated, watering station, dog beach/swimming, 100 feet away from residential and commercial uses (2)
- Playground (3)
- Water Feature (4)
- Park with shaded picnic area, paths (8)

Next Steps:

- Obtain a 50-year Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the City of New Orleans to develop this new, innovative greenspace
- Finalize fiscal agent paperwork with Recirculating Farms Coalition in order to capitalize on 501.c.3 donations and grant opportunities
- Develop a new steering committee comprising members of GoFloodMe, Recirculating Farms Coalition and MyNOLA Park to find \$100,000 in seed money commitments and organize the next steps toward development

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